

known as the Bristol Sessions were born, launching the careers of country greats like the Carter Family, the Stonemans and Jimmie Rogers. Those sessions are often billed as "the Big Bang" that started the development of modern and marketable country music.

Bristol, TN, and Bristol, VA, may be two cities but they share a common spirit. You can't help but feel that spirit each time you visit, as I have had the pleasure of doing many times over the years. Nothing says it better than the Bristol Sign, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Stretching across State Street and linking the States of Virginia and Tennessee, it declares Bristol "A Good Place to Live."

Mr. President, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of Bristol as they celebrate the twin cities' sesquicentennial this year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—COM- MENDING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2006 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 523

Whereas on June 26, 2006, the Oregon State University baseball team won the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska by defeating the University of Georgia Bulldogs by a score of 5-3, the University of Miami Hurricanes by a score of 8-1, the Rice University Owls by scores of 5-0 and 2-0, and the University of North Carolina Tarheels in 2 championship series games by scores of 11-7 and 3-2;

Whereas the success of the season depended on the hard work, dedication, and performance of every player on the Oregon State University baseball team, including Erik Ammon, Darwin Barney, Bret Bochsler, Reed Brown, Dallas Buck, Brian Budrow, Mitch Canham, Bryn Card, Brett Casey, Cory Ellis, Derek Engelke, Josh Fogue, Cole Gillespie, Ryan Gipson, Tyler Graham, Mark Grbavac, Kevin Gunderson, Koa Kahalehoe, Greg Keim, Jon Koller, Chris Kunda, Eddie Kunz, Joey Lakowski, Greg Laybourn, Lonnie Lechelt, Mike Liessman, Anton Maxwell, Jake McCormick, Shea McFeely, Jonah Nickerson, Joe Paterson, Casey Priseman, Sean Rockey, Bill Rowe, Scott Santschi, Alex Sogard, Dale Solomon, Michael Stutes, Rob Summers, Daniel Turpen, Geoff Wagner, and John Wallace;

Whereas numerous members of the Oregon State University baseball team were recognized for their performance in the regular season in the PAC-10 Conference, including Cole Gillespie, who was named PAC-10 Baseball Player of the Year, Chris Kunda, who was named PAC-10 Defensive Player of the Year, Darwin Barney, Dallas Buck, Cole Gillespie, Kevin Gunderson, and Jonah Nickerson who were named to the first team All PAC-10 baseball team, and Mitch Canham, Chris Kunda, and Shea McFeely who were named to the honorable mention All PAC-10 baseball team;

Whereas Head Coach Pat Casey was named PAC-10 Baseball Coach of the Year;

Whereas Jonah Nickerson was recognized as the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament; and

Whereas the College World Series victory of the Oregon State University ended a terrific season in which the team compiled a record of 50-16: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Oregon State University baseball team, Head Coach Pat Casey and his coaching staff, Athletic Director Bob DeCarolis, and President Edward John Ray for an outstanding championship season; and

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of Oregon State University.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLU- TION 106—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARD- ING HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES BY DEMOCRAT- ICALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS OF TAIWAN

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 106

Whereas, for over half a century, a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan, which has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both countries;

Whereas Taiwan is one of the strongest democratic allies of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas it is United States policy to support and strengthen democracy around the world;

Whereas during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan made a remarkable transition to a full-fledged democracy with a vibrant economy and a vigorous multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in a November 2005 speech in Kyoto, Japan, lauded the Government of Taiwan for its democratic achievements;

Whereas, in spite of its praise for democracy in Taiwan, the United States Government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the United States Government has barred these high-level officials from visiting Washington, D.C., while allowing the unelected leaders of the People's Republic of China to routinely visit Washington, D.C., and welcoming them to the White House;

Whereas these self-imposed restrictions lead to a lack of direct contact and communication with the democratically elected leaders of Taiwan and deprive the President, Congress, and the American public of the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas, in consideration of the major economic, security, and political interests shared by the United States and Taiwan, it is to the benefit of the United States for United States officials to meet with and communicate directly with the democratically elected leaders of Taiwan;

Whereas, since the Taiwan Strait is one of the flashpoints in the world, it is important that United States policymakers directly communicate with the leaders of Taiwan; and

Whereas, Section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of

1994 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) provides that the President or other high-level officials of Taiwan may visit the United States, including Washington D.C., at any time to discuss a variety of important issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically-elected President of Taiwan, should be lifted;

(2) the United States should allow direct high-level exchanges at the Cabinet level, in order to strengthen a policy dialogue with the Government of Taiwan; and

(3) it is in the interest of the United States to strengthen links between the United States and the democratically-elected Government of Taiwan and demonstrate stronger support for democracy in the Asia-Pacific region.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4543. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

SA 4544. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4543. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; as follows:

On page 2, line 2, strike "two" and all that follows and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FLAG PROTECTION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the "Flag Protection Act of 2006".

(b) **FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(A) the flag of the United States is a unique symbol of national unity and represents the values of liberty, justice, and equality that make this Nation an example of freedom unmatched throughout the world;

(B) the Bill of Rights is a guarantee of those freedoms and should not be amended in a manner that could be interpreted to restrict freedom, a course that is regularly resorted to by authoritarian governments which fear freedom and not by free and democratic nations;

(C) abuse of the flag of the United States causes more than pain and distress to the overwhelming majority of the American people and may amount to fighting words or a direct threat to the physical and emotional well-being of individuals at whom the threat is targeted; and

(D) destruction of the flag of the United States can be intended to incite a violent response rather than make a political statement and such conduct is outside the protections afforded by the first amendment to the Constitution.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide the maximum protection against the use of the flag of the United States to promote violence while respecting the liberties that it symbolizes.

(C) PROTECTION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST USE FOR PROMOTING VIOLENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 700 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 700. Incitement; damage or destruction of property involving the flag of the United States

“(a) DEFINITION OF FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES.—In this section, the term ‘flag of the United States’ means any flag of the United States, or any part thereof, made of any substance, in any size, in a form that is commonly displayed as a flag and that would be taken to be a flag by the reasonable observer.

“(b) ACTIONS PROMOTING VIOLENCE.—Any person who destroys or damages a flag of the United States with the primary purpose and intent to incite or produce imminent violence or a breach of the peace, and under circumstances in which the person knows that it is reasonably likely to produce imminent violence or a breach of the peace, shall be fined not more than \$100,000, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(c) FLAG BURNING.—Any person who shall intentionally threaten or intimidate any person or group of persons by burning, or causing to be burned, a flag of the United States shall be fined not more than \$100,000, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

“(d) DAMAGING A FLAG BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES.—Any person who steals or knowingly converts to his or her use, or to the use of another, a flag of the United States belonging to the United States, and who intentionally destroys or damages that flag, shall be fined not more than \$250,000, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

“(e) DAMAGING A FLAG OF ANOTHER ON FEDERAL LAND.—Any person who, within any lands reserved for the use of the United States, or under the exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction of the United States, steals or knowingly converts to his or her use, or to the use of another, a flag of the United States belonging to another person, and who intentionally destroys or damages that flag, shall be fined not more than \$250,000, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

“(f) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to indicate an intent on the part of Congress to deprive any State, territory, or possession of the United States, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of jurisdiction over any offense over which it would have jurisdiction in the absence of this section.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 700 and inserting the following:

“700. Incitement; damage or destruction of property involving the flag of the United States.”.

(d) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of the section, and the application of this section to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected by such holding.

SEC. 2. RESPECT FOR THE FUNERALS OF FALLEN HEROES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Respect for the Funerals of Fallen Heroes Act of 2006”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 1387 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1387. Prohibition on demonstrations at funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces

“(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in a demonstration during the period beginning 60 minutes before and ending 60 minutes after the funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces, any part of which demonstration—

“(1)(A) takes place within the boundaries of the location of such funeral and such location is not a cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration or part of Arlington National Cemetery; or

“(B) takes place on the property of a cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration or on the property of Arlington National Cemetery and the demonstration has not been approved by the cemetery superintendent or the director of the property on which the cemetery is located;

“(2)(A) takes place within 150 feet of the point of the intersection between—

“(i) the boundary of the location of such funeral; and

“(ii) a road, pathway, or other route of ingress to or egress from the location of such funeral; and

“(B) includes, as part of such demonstration, any individual willfully making or assisting in the making of any noise or diversion that disturbs or tends to disturb the peace or good order of the funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces; or

“(3) is within 300 feet of the boundary of the location of such funeral and impedes the access to or egress from such location.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘Armed Forces’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 10.

“(2) The term ‘funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces’ means any ceremony, procession, or memorial service held in connection with the burial or cremation of a member or former member of the Armed Forces.

“(3) The term ‘demonstration’ includes—

“(A) any picketing or similar conduct;

“(B) any oration, speech, use of sound amplification equipment or device, or similar conduct that is not part of a funeral, memorial service, or ceremony;

“(C) the display of any placard, banner, flag, or similar device, unless such a display is part of a funeral, memorial service, or ceremony; and

“(D) the distribution of any handbill, pamphlet, leaflet, or other written or printed matter other than a program distributed as part of a funeral, memorial service, or ceremony.

“(4) The term ‘boundary of the location’, with respect to a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces, means—

“(A) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at a cemetery, the property line of the cemetery;

“(B) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at a mortuary, the property line of the mortuary;

“(C) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at a house of worship, the property line of the house of worship; and

“(D) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at any other kind of location, the reasonable property line of that location.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 67 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1387 and inserting the following new item:

“1387. Prohibition on demonstrations at funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces.”.

SA 4544. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A Joint Resolution amending title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States and to prohibit certain demonstrations at funerals of members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 27, 2006, at 10:30 a.m., in closed session to receive a briefing on recent North Korean Ballistic Missile Developments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 27, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing on “Oversight of SAFETEA-LU Implementation: The Current State of Progress and Future Outlook.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet in an executive session today at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday,